carried off through the columns of mercury; but, as the tube is withdrawn, the fire is ſuppoſed to return.

EXPERIMENT IX.

Let an excited ſtick of wax, of two feet and an half in length, and about an inch in diameter, be held near its middle. Excite the glaſs tube, and draw it over one half of it; then, turning it a little about its axis, let the tube be excited again, and drawn over the ſame half; and let this operation be repeated ſeveral times: then will that half deſtroy the repelling power of balls electrified by glaſs, and the other half will increaſe it.

By this experiment it appears, that wax alſo may be electrified poſitively and negatively. And it is probable, that all bodies whatſoever may have the quantity they contain of the electrical fluid, increaſed, or diminiſhed. The clouds, I have obſerved, by a great number of experiments, to be ſome in a poſitive, and others in a negative ſtate of electricity. For the cork balls, electrified by them, will ſometimes cloſe at the approach of excited glaſs; and at other times be ſeparated to a greater diſtance. And this change I have known to happen five or ſix times in leſs than half an hour; the balls coming together each time, and remaining in contact a few ſeconds, before they repel each other again. It may likewiſe eaſily be diſcover'd, by a charged phial, whether the electrical fire be drawn out of the apparatus by a negative cloud, or forced into it by a poſitive one: and by whichſoever it be electrified, ſhould that cloud either part with its overplus, or have its deficiency ſupplied ſuddenly, the apparatus will loſe its electricity: which is frequently obſerved to be the caſe, immediately after a flaſh of lightning. Yet when the air is very dry, the apparatus will continue to be electriſed for ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour, after the clouds have paſſed the zenith; and ſometimes till they appear more than half-way towards the horizon. Rain, eſpecially when the drops are large, generally brings down the electrical fire: and hail, in ſummer, I believe never fails. When the apparatus was laſt electrified, it was by the fall of thawing ſnow; which happened ſo lately, as on the 12th of *November*; that being the twenty-ſixth day, and ſixty-firſt time, it has been electrified, ſince it was firſt ſet up; which was about the middle of *May*. And as *Fahrenheit*'s thermometer was but ſeven degrees above freezing, it is ſuppoſed the winter will not intirely put a ſtop to obſervations of this ſort. At *London*, no more than two thunderſtorms have happened during the whole ſummer: and the apparatus was ſometimes ſo ſtrongly electrified in one of them, that the bells, which have been frequently rung by the clouds, ſo loud as to be heard in every room of the houſe (the doors being open), were ſilenced by the almoſt conſtant ſtream of denſe electrical fire, between each bell and the braſs ball, which would not ſuffer it to ſtrike.

I ſhall conclude this paper, already too long, with the following queries:

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